

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 20-0224R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Scott, Councilmembers Dorsey, Middleton, Bullock, Sneed, Clarke,
Pinkett, Burnett, Henry, Schleifer, Cohen, McCray, Stokes, Costello, Reisinger
Introduced and adopted: May 11, 2020

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

**Request for State Action – Override Veto on House Bill 1300 – Blueprint for Maryland’s
Future - Implementation**

FOR the purpose of calling on the Maryland General Assembly to override the Governor’s veto
and pass House Bill 1300 – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future - Implementation – that would
protect the educational rights and the future of all of Maryland’s students.

Recitals

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Article VIII of the Maryland Constitution requires the General
Assembly to establish a "thorough and efficient" system of free public schools;

WHEREAS, The courts have interpreted this clause to mean that the right to public education
is measured by "contemporary" standards in order "to equip a child for his [or her] role as a
citizen and as a competitor in the labor market." Hornbeck v. Somerset Cty. Bd. of Educ., 295
Md. 597, 638 (1983);

WHEREAS, The Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education is an
initiative that developed funding and policy reforms for Maryland schools;

WHEREAS, The Commission made recommendations to the Maryland General Assembly for
improving education in Maryland to prepare students "to meet the challenges of a changing
global economy, to meet the State's workforce needs, to be prepared for post-secondary education
and the workforce, and to be successful citizens in the 21st century.";

WHEREAS, Two years ago, a report to the Kirwan Commission documented that City schools
need an additional \$358 million annually to ensure an adequate education for Baltimore's
students;

WHEREAS, The State’s own Department of Legislative Services found that elimination of the
inflation factor from the funding formula has resulted in the under-funding of City schools by
\$290 million per year;

WHEREAS, Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public and private schools are closed;

WHEREAS, The devastation of COVID-19 has wreaked further havoc on Baltimore City
students’ education, leaving many without the resources to continue their studies remotely;

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 **WHEREAS**, Without the promise of Kirwan's funding, these students will once again be left to
2 pick up the pieces of a broken system;

3 **WHEREAS**, Congress has given Maryland over \$2 billion for COVID-19 related expenses;

4 **WHEREAS**, The Council anticipates that Congress will supply more funding to offset revenue
5 losses as a result of COVID-19;

6 **WHEREAS**, House Bill 1300 – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future - Implementation – passed the
7 House of Delegates with a vote of 96-38 and the Senate with a vote of 37-9; the votes were
8 notably both veto-proof majorities; and

9 **WHEREAS**, The Governor vetoed the bill on May 7, 2020.

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
11 Council calls on the Maryland General Assembly to override the Governor’s veto and pass House
12 Bill 1300 – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future - Implementation – that would protect the
13 educational rights and the future of all of Maryland’s students.

14 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable
15 Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the Maryland
16 General Assembly and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.